

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : To be assigned                      Confirmation No.      Unknown  
Applicant : Paul R. Sharps et al.  
Filed : February 6, 2004  
TC/A.U. : Unknown  
Examiner : Unknown

Docket No. : 1613370-0046 CON  
Customer No. : 007470

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

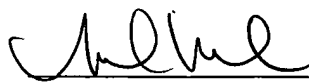
**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.

**First Class Certificate of Mailing**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450, on February 6, 2004.

Melissa McCool  
Name

  
Signature

February 6, 2004  
Date